REMARKS

I.   Election/Restrictions

For the reasons set forth in the outstanding Office Action, Examiner asserted that Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

I.   Claims 1-24, 26-38, 43, 44 and 60-67, drawn to an apparatus.

II.   Claim 68, drawn to a method

Having regard to the foregoing, Applicant elects Group I, Claims 1-24, 26-38, 43, 44 and 60-67 without traverse. Applicant has cancelled claim 68.

Furthermore, for the reasons set forth in the outstanding Office Action, Examiner requested that the Applicant elect a single species to which the claims shall be restricted if not generic claim is finally held allowable. Accordingly, Applicant elects species A. Figs. 1-4b corresponding to claims 1, 20 and 24.

II.   Amendments

Applicant has made minor editorial amendments to claims 1 and 4.

III.   Conclusion

Applicant has elected the group of inventions and species as requested in the outstanding Office Action. It is believed that the aforementioned amendments do not constitute new matter, but are rather clarifying in nature and consistent with the claim election specified herein. Additionally, it is believed that support for such amendments is provided within the specification, and that the specification adequately enables such amendments. In view of the foregoing discussion,

Applicant has responded to the Official Action, and respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued. Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned representative to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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